

Hawaii Marine Lifestyles

The best (free) view in Kailua

Story and photos by
Cpl. Reece Lodder
Combat Correspondent

A lone hand-drawn sign marks the entrance to the Pillbox Hiking Trail in Kailua's Lanikai neighborhood. The short 0.7-mile (one way) hike is free, family friendly and features a beautiful view of Oahu's Windward coast and inland.

A hiker bounds down the Pillbox Hiking Trail.

KAILUA — Perched high above Kailua's world-famous Lanikai Beach, the Pillbox Hiking Trail is Windward Oahu's most rewarding outdoor destination.

Short yet easy to trek, the 0.7-mile hike (one way) is free, family friendly and features a breathtaking 360-degree view of Oahu's Windward coast and inland.

The inconspicuous entrance is found along Lanikai's Kaelepulu Drive, nestled between the Mid-Pacific Country Club and two townhouse communities. Street parking is plentiful, leaving hikers with only a short walk uphill to the trailhead marked by a hand-drawn sign.

A short uphill climb, marked by guide ropes and steps formed in dirt, is gradual enough for young children and older hikers alike. While the semi-steep beginning won't allow for baby strollers, parents can safely trek it with baby carriers or backpacks.

The incline quickly levels off and the trail continues along a ridgeline toward the first pillbox, leaving plenty of hiking room from its edge. Mere minutes after setting foot on the trail, hikers witness the stunning view below.

The golden sand of Lanikai Beach meets the ocean's shallow emerald water to their north; the twin Mokulua Islands lay shortly beyond. With their head on a swivel, hikers can also take in Kailua, Kaneohe and Waimanalo. The majestic Koolau Mountain Range is perfectly visible to their south.

"Growing up here, I've hiked a lot around the islands," said Kailua resident Gordon Ching. "This hike has the best view of the Windward side of the island for the amount of effort it takes to complete it."

As hikers continue along the ridgeline toward the pillboxes, strong gusts of wind rustle through the dry brush and against the rock. Even in the early morning, the searing Hawaiian sun demands that hikers protect themselves with sunscreen. The only respite from the heat is found within the trail's two abandoned World War II-era pillboxes.

Local officials and historians believe Army engineers constructed the pillboxes in late 1941 to strengthen defenses on Oahu's Windward side. During World War II, they were used as observation posts from which to ob-



serve approaching enemy ships. Today, hikers pose for photos and enjoy Oahu's most beautiful scenery from atop the graffitied concrete bunkers.

"The view from the top is spectacular," said Charles Wong, a visitor from Fremont, Calif. "This is an enjoyable hike ... not overly strenuous, but not too easy either. I enjoy it every time I visit the island."

Though most hikers turn around at the second and final pillbox, the trail continues past it and divides into a variety of others. The most popular ends at the Lanikai Loop; from there, hikers can return to their vehicles by walking through the residential neighborhood.

Before trekking out to take on the Pillbox Hiking Trail, it's advised to lather up with sunscreen, fill a water bottle and slip into a pair of sturdy hiking shoes. Don't be the hiker seen struggling to descend a rocky hill in a pair of Crocs.



A hiker descends the Pillbox Hiking Trail.



Jeff Kim and Keira Baker, from Honolulu's Salt Lake neighborhood, enjoy the breathtaking view of Kailua's Lanikai Beach and Mokulua Islands from atop a World War II-era bunker on the Pillbox Hiking Trail in Kailua.

PASS

IN

REVIEW

Your weekly guide to the best aspects of entertainment

Welcome to the Pass In Review, your number one source for cinema, music, video game, book and product reviews. The Pass In Review crew consists of more than 10 critics, each with their own idea of what makes a movie, album, game, product or book great. So be sure to take advantage of the Better Know A Critic section, which spotlights this week’s critics to better help you choose the critic with opinions most like your own. Using our breakthrough four-point scale system, you can quickly decipher what is worth your time and what isn’t, or read the full review for an in-depth analysis and explanation of the rating. The rating system uses ammunition and range terminology, so if you’re not familiar, here’s a quick breakdown of the ratings ...

- 1/4 — No Impact, No Idea

Horrendous. Among the worst of the worst in its genre. Dedicating time to this is not only wasteful, but unforgivable. Avoid at all costs.


- 2/4 — High And To The Right

Mediocrity at its best. Lacks a few things that might have made it really good. A decent time waster, partake only if you have nothing better to do.


- 3/4 — On Target

Praiseworthy. A great endeavor, not quite an instant classic but still very entertaining. This is a sound investment of your time.


- 4/4 — Confirmed Kill

Genius. In the top 10 percent of its genre. This is the stuff legends are made of. Missing out on it would be a disservice to yourself.



So, there you have it and we hope you enjoy our weekly reviews. Don't forget, The Hawaii Marine accepts submissions from its readers so if you consider yourself a film buff, music aficionado, gaming geek or bookworm, feel free to submit your own reviews.

Better Know A Critic



Cpl. James A. Sauter believes that a good movie begins with a good story. The story needs to be well balanced between the chemistry and variety of characters with an original plot or setting that keeps the reader or audience up on its toes.



Sgt. D.R. Cotton has rejected the misguided hype of video game consoles forever in favor of PC first-person shooters. The easiest way to appease him with a multiplayer FPS is with a multilayered online multiplayer experience. Only competitiveness will sustain the appeasement — if there’s any competition left after two minutes of gameplay.

Back away from this failing movie

Cpl. James A. Sauter
Combat Correspondent

Among the controversy that can be debated with absolute futility by both the political elite and concerned parents is the eroding of the public school system. The issue of whether public schools are actually preparing children to be competitive in the economy has been discussed for several decades with countless studies and attempts to bring change. Ultimately, it has failed.

In 2010, a documentary titled “Waiting for Superman” gave modern audiences a well-summarized look at why a staggering number of public schools are failing, particularly those in heavily urbanized areas. The film bridges the tie between failing schools, communities and rising crime rates. “Waiting for Superman” nailed the issue on the head, but the newly released “Won’t Back Down” hammered its thumb when addressing the same issues.

“Won’t Back Down” is inspired by true events but follows a cliché script.

This results in a happy ending that makes the audience feel good about something near impossible to achieve — overcoming the status quo and bureaucratic mess that entangles the public school system.

The movie stars Maggie Gyllenhaal as Jamie, a near-poverty level bartender, car saleswoman and single mother of a dyslexic eight-year-old daughter. Despite her situation, Jamie is obsessed with giving her daughter a better life and sees the necessity of a good education.

The catch is the local school

is failing due to inept, tenured teachers and cancerous apathy from parents and teachers. In this environment, no reform can take place. Jamie discovers a recently passed law allows parents to sign a petition to collectively overrule the school administration and teacher union to fix their wrongs. However, the greatest fight for Jamie is persuading people to abandon the status quo the system has created.

I’m not blind to the seriousness of bad schools failing our children, even in basic skills like reading, writing and mathematics, and I’m not dismissing the message

this movie tries to convey. I only wish “Won’t Back Down” didn’t oversimplify the problems, present easy fixes and end it with sunshine, rainbows and unicorns.

Every character this movie presents couldn’t be more stereotypical than they’re presented. The white mother is poor, slightly scantily dressed but optimistic and the black mother is upper-middle class, pessimistic but slightly hopeful the white woman’s idea can work in a heavily black and Hispanic neighborhood. Come on, give me a break.

This movie is trying to paint a picture of a serious issue but fails to capture both the problem and solution. If anyone wants to learn more about the failing school system, they’re better off sticking with “Waiting For Superman.” Stay away from this film.



Borderlands 2 ‘vaults’ classic to new heights

Sgt. D. R. Cotton
Press Chief

2K Games’ released “Borderlands 2,” a multiplayer first-person co-op that is meant to be as entertaining as it is challenging, Sept. 18. From the developer who brought you variations of “Civilization,” “Mafia,” “Civilization,” and “Close Combat: First to Fight” (our Marine Corps video game from 2005), B2 is an interesting addition to the line-up and offers a good, but raunchy, time for your PlayStation 3, Xbox 360 or Windows PC.

The plot starts out with a group of “vault hunters,” who are on a quest to find a vault of alien technology (carried over from the original Borderlands game), who get blown up on a train and are saved by their guardian angel. They follow the witty, wacky and weird little robot, Claptrap, to find their way to Sanctuary, the last non-Handsome Jack city.

Handsome Jack, on the other hand, is this games antagonist and is trying to rule the planet, Pandora (a desert wild-west type planet that pre-dates the one from Avatar, and oh ya, no blue space hippies), with an iron fist. Our four main character, which you can play, team up with an array of entertaining secondary characters to attempt to thwart Handsome Jack and his insane posse of miscreants, getting closer the vaults.

Borderlands 2 is built on a heavily modified Unreal Engine 3 like “Gears of War.” As far as graphics go, the combination of Gears of War with “Max Payne”-type crazies and cut-scenes, but B2 has mostly a very original flavor. The game play is excellent. I have had no issues with executing any of the game mechanics. The weapons, ammunition and gear are well organized and prepared. There are nearly limitless combinations of each of the types of weapons. The missions are intermittent and easy to follow, but not unchallenging. There are four different classes you can play.

Salvador the “gunzerker,” a dual-weapon wielding tank-type; Maya the “siren,” a support-type of character; Axton the commando, a bruiser-type; and Zer0 the “assassin,” a sniper-stealth character;


each can be chosen and played in any combination online with others. Each of their abilities are effective enough to want to craft a team for a certain mission, but not so vital as to take away the casual nature of the gameplay.

Besides the learning curve and glitches a new game has and that will likely be corrected, I could find nothing of significance to criticize. The game is good, but very very vulgar (cannot emphasize enough).


Although this is my first excursion with the Borderlands franchise, B2 is a fantastic multiplayer time with a reminiscence of “Goldeneye” (I know what you’re thinking, “I bet he says that to all the new first-person shooters”).

This comparison is well deserved, as it brings that versus-style multiplayer fun to the online co-op mode. The graphics are great, and it hits on the most important factor — the fun factor.





Prices: All shows are \$3.25 for adults and \$2.25 for children. For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.



“The Odd Life of Timothy Green” PG-13 Today | 7:15 p.m.

“The Watch” R Today | 9:45 p.m.

“Bourne Legacy” PG-13 Saturday | 7:15 p.m.

“The Campaign” R Saturday | 9:45 p.m.

“Diary of a Wimpy Dog: Dog Days” PG Sunday | 2 p.m.

“Step Up Revolution” PG-13 Sunday | 6:30 p.m.

“Bourne Legacy” PG-13 Wednesday | 6:30 p.m.



recycle your ewaste in
an earth-friendly way

Education & Government eWaste Disposal Days

FREE statewide recycling program offered by the University of Hawai'i

October 25th - 27th, 2012

Collection sites include: John A. Burns School of Medicine, Leeward CC, Windward CC, UH at Hilo, Kealahou High School (Kailua-Kona), Kaua'i CC and U of H Maui College.

Sites open 9:00am to 3:00pm daily. See webpage for full site schedule and preregistration info.

Recycling with preregistration on 25th & 26th for:

- UH/Public and Private Schools
- Government Agencies
- Military Branches
- Non-profits
- Small/medium sized businesses

Recycling on 27th for Hawai'i household residents only (NO registration required.)

www.hawaii.edu/ewaste

Acceptable eWaste Items

Computer Systems & Accessories

- All-in-Ones
- CPUs
- CRT Monitors
- Hard Drives
- Hubs
- Keyboards & Mice
- Laptops
- LCD Displays
- Optical Drives
- Servers
- Speakers
- Switches
- UPS Systems
- Wires & Cables

Handheld Devices

- Cell Phones
- Pagers
- PDAs
- Two Way Radios

Office Equipment

- Adding Machines
- Fax Machines
- Laminating Machines
- Photo Copiers
- Printers
- Scanners
- Surge Protectors
- Telephones
- Typewriters

Audio & Video Equipment

- Camcorders
- Cameras
- DVD Players
- Games Systems
- LCD Projectors
- Overhead Projectors
- Radios
- Stereos
- Televisions
- VCRs

Materials NOT Accepted

- Batteries not Integral to Computer Systems
- Cardboard
- Contaminated Equipment of any type
- Cracked or Broken CRT Screens
- Hairdryers
- Hazardous Materials of any type
- Household Appliances
- Microwaves
- Paper
- Smoke Detectors
- Styrofoam



Facilitated by



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
SYSTEM

Recycling services courtesy of Apple

Site support by Hawai'i State Department of Education